

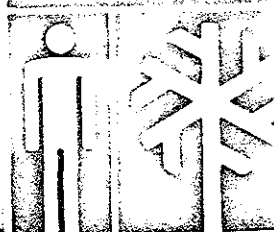
historical base map

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
BRANCH OF HISTORIC PLACES
LIBRARY COPY

D-1

IN
STORAGE

SHILOH



NATIONAL MILITARY PARK and NATIONAL CEMETERY / TENNESSEE

SCANNED

7/10/00

HISTORICAL BASE MAP
SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY
PARK & CEMETERY
SHILOH, TENNESSEE

Prepared by
Edwin C. Bearss

DENVER SERVICE CENTER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION TEAM
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DENVER, COLORADO

AUGUST, 1973

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HISTORIC FIELDS AND ORCHARDS	1
A.	The Problem	1
B.	The Solution	2
II.	THE COMMISSION RESTORES THE HISTORIC SCENE	4
A.	Major Davis Makes an Important Recommendation	4
1.	Congress Authorizes Establishment of Shiloh National Military Park	4
2.	Captain Irwin and the Preliminary Survey	6
3.	Major Davis Reconnoiters the Battlefield	7
4.	Major Davis Recommends the Commission Prepare a Topographical Map	8
B.	The Preparation of the Shiloh Topographical Map	9
1.	Atwell Thompson is Employed as Park Engineer	9
2.	Work Begins on the Topographical Survey	10
3.	Unforeseen Difficulties Cause Delays	11
4.	The Transit and Level Parties Complete Their Tasks	11
5.	Establishing the Property Lines	12
6.	Thompson Completes His Topographical Map	13
7.	The Topographical Survey is Extended	14
C.	The Commission's Historical Base Map	15
1.	The Commission's Ground Rules	15
2.	General Buell Assists with the Project	16
3.	Locating the Historic Roads and Traces	17
4.	The Commission Loses its Site Identification Champion	17
5.	Interpreting the River Stage for April 6-7, 1862	18
6.	The Historic Features are Entered on the Topographical Map	18
D.	Mapping for the Commission, 1896-1902	19
1.	Mapping Wallace's April 6, 1862, Route from Crump's Landing	19
2.	Other Maps Prepared by Thompson and His Staff	20
E.	The Commission Re-establishes the Historic Ground Cover	21
III.	DOCUMENTATION TO IDENTIFY HISTORICAL FEATURES AND VEGETATIVE COVER FOUND ON THE HISTORICAL BASE MAP FOR SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY PARK	24
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	80
	HISTORICAL BASE MAP	84

FOREWORD

This report has been prepared to satisfy the research needs as enumerated in Historical Resource Study Proposal SHIL-H-1, Historical Base Map, Shiloh National Military Park, as amplified in the Memorandum of Agreement, dated August 2, 1972. Superintendent Alvoid Rector at this time stated that what was desired was a documented map showing the physical condition of the area on April 6-7, 1862, with emphasis on configuration and location of fields, roads, fences, woods, etc. This information was required to enable the Park to manage its resources and restore the vegetative cover, where practicable, to its appearance at the time of the battle.

To accomplish this task, in the time allotted (one-tenth of a man-year), all maps of the Shiloh Campaign and National Military Park on file at National Archives, Library of Congress, and the Park were studied. The Official Records, the Papers of the Shiloh National Military Park Commission for the years 1894-1911, research reports on file at the National Military Park, and published regimental histories were reviewed and copious notes taken. Accompanied by park personnel, I reconnoitered key areas of the National Military Park.

A number of persons assisted in preparation of this report, and without their assistance it might never have been completed. Particular thanks are due: Park Superintendent Alvoid L. Rector, Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management Omega G. East, Chief of Maintenance J. B. Jordon, and Park Technician J. T. Barnett of Shiloh National Military Park, for their assistance at the site. Besides accompanying me on my reconnaissances and answering hundreds of questions, they went out of their way to make my trips to the area profitable and enjoyable. Mrs. Grace Patterson of Hardin County, Tennessee, shared her knowledge of local history with me. Personnel of the Cartographic Branch of the National Archives and the Geography and Map Division of the Library of Congress were their usual cooperative selves, greatly facilitating my work at those two institutions. Bob Borgstede of the Denver Service Center took my rough draft of the Historical Base Map and turned it into a work of art.

My colleagues Barry Mackintosh and Omega East read the manuscript in draft, making valuable suggestions, and saving me from future embarrassments. Last but not least, I wish to thank and express my appreciation to Miss Patricia Zbel and Miss Sarah Olson for typing the subject manuscript.

I. THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HISTORIC FIELDS AND ORCHARDS

A. The Problem

World War II had important repercussions on efforts of National Park Service personnel to maintain the historic scene at Shiloh National Military Park. In November 1941 the Civilian Conservation Corps installations were closed down and the task of keeping the historic fields cleared and the vegetation cut back had to be shouldered by a limited maintenance staff. Reduced appropriations and cut-backs in manpower during the war years complicated the problem.

By 1947 the woods were encroaching on a number of fields. Aerial photographs taken in that year show small trees and underbrush springing up along a number of watercourses passing through the historic fields. In addition, woods and undergrowth were encroaching into corners of certain of the fields. During the 25 years which followed, the woods and underbrush have continued to advance, until by September 1972 the configuration and acreage of a number of the fields had no relation to the historic period.

To re-establish the historic fields with their correct configuration and acreage, Superintendent Al Rector and Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management Omega East initiated a request for preparation of an Historical Base Map for Shiloh National Military Park. This project was accordingly programmed for Fiscal Year 1973.

After studying all available documents in Washington and at Shiloh National Military Park, a draft of the Historical Base Map and supporting documentation was prepared. I then returned to Shiloh National Military Park on December 6, 1972, to reconnoiter the fields with Superintendent Rector, Chief of Interpretation and Resource Management East, and Chief of Maintenance J. B. Jordan. Our goal was a mutually satisfactory plan with priorities for re-establishment of the correct alignment of the fields. It was agreed that it would be economically impossible and unwise as a protective measure to re-establish all the fields.

B. The Solution

Our field study satisfied us that in re-establishing Rhea Field, woods and underbrush should be removed on the west as far as the branch. All cedars, except those forming a background to the Confederate burial trench, would be removed. In Rhea Field, as well as all others, a few mature trees will be retained to add variety to the landscape. In the bottom, the meander scar cut by the branch in recent years will be filled to simplify maintenance.

In re-establishing Fraley Field, the sections of the field north of Beauregard Road and west of the north-south line extending north from Wood's Field will not be cleared. To maintain Fraley Field once it is re-established, it may be necessary to remove erosion scars on either side of West Branch.

No problem will be encountered in re-establishing Wood's Field. Because of its significance to the story of the battle, the rail fence separating Wood's and Fraley fields will be reconstructed.

To re-establish Seay's Field, it will be necessary to remove a belt of timber and underbrush that has encroached on the south end of the field to a depth of about 100 yards.

Some work will be required to re-establish the configuration of Daniel Davis' wheatfield.

Larkin Bell's apple orchard will be re-established and fenced. To re-establish Larkin Bell's Field it will be necessary to remove a number of trees and the undergrowth that has grown up along the east and north sides of the field.

No effort will be made to re-establish Larkin Bell's peach orchard and field south of the Hamburg-Savannah road, because of the proximity of the Park boundary and the possibility that a bypass at some future date will be constructed a short distance south of the Park boundary.

A few trees and some undergrowth will have to be removed from the southwest and northwest corners of Wicker Field.

To restore Cloud Field will require removal of the timbered block east of the Hamburg-Savannah road. West of the Hamburg-Savannah road, the open woods between that road and the Corinth-Pittsburg road should be extended south by the removal of underbrush and smaller trees, and its southern boundary brought on alignment with Cloud Field.

The re-establishment of Jones Field will require the removal of trees and underbrush that have grown up along the watercourses and at the edge of the field.

Woolf Field should be extended to a depth of 100 feet south of the Corinth-Pittsburg Road.

The Park staff is to be commended for their efforts to propagate the water oaks at Water Oaks Pond and the peach trees at the Peach Orchard.

The woods and undergrowth that have intruded into the small field southwest of Shiloh Church should be removed.

In Duncan Field the underbrush that has grown up along Briar Creek should be thinned.

Fields off the tour route will be maintained, but the re-establishment of their historic alignment will be indefinitely deferred.

II. THE COMMISSION RESTORES THE HISTORIC SCENE

A. Major Davis Makes an Important Recommendation

1. Congress Authorizes Establishment of Shiloh National Military Park

The act authorizing establishment of Shiloh National Military Park was signed into law by President Grover Cleveland on December 27, 1894. According to the first section of the Act, the Shiloh battlefield was to be declared

a national military park, whenever title to the same shall have been acquired by the United States and the usual jurisdiction over the lands and roads of the same shall have been granted to the United States by the State of Tennessee.

The boundaries of the park, or so much thereof as the Commissioners may deem necessary, were to inclose an area

beginning at low-water mark on the north bank of Snake Creek where it empties into the Tennessee River; thence westwardly in a straight line to the point where the river road to Crump's Landing, Tennessee, crosses Snake Creek; thence along the channel of Owl Creek to the crossing of the road to Purdy, Tennessee; then southwardly in a straight line to the intersection of an east and west line drawn from the point where the road to Hamburg, Tennessee, crosses Lick Creek, near the mouth of the latter; then eastward along the said east and west line to the point where the Hamburg Road crosses Lick Creek; thence along the channel of Lick Creek to the Tennessee River; then along low-water mark of the Tennessee River to the point of beginning, containing three thousand acres, more or less.

The three commissioners to be named by the Secretary of War to have charge of the development and administration of the Park, subject to his supervision and direction, were to

open or repair such roads as may be necessary to the purposes of the park, and to ascertain and mark with historical tablets or otherwise . . . all lines of battle of the troops engaged in the battle of Shiloh and other historical points of interest pertaining to the battle within the park or its vicinity.

The final section of the Act appropriated \$15,000 to enable the Secretary of War to

begin to carry out the purposes of this Act, including the condemnation or purchase of the necessary land, marking the boundaries of the park, opening or repairing necessary roads, restoring the field to its condition at the time of the battle, maps and surveys, and the pay and expenses of the commissioners and their assistants.¹

In accordance with the Act creating Shiloh National Military Park, Secretary of War Daniel Lamont named the three commissioners, one to represent each of the armies engaged in the battle, to be in charge of administration and development of the area. Col. Cornelius Cadle, who had served with the Army of the Tennessee, was appointed chairman of the Commission; Maj. Gen. Don C. Buell of the Army of the Ohio and Col. Robert F. Looney of the Confederate Army of the Mississippi would serve with Cadle. Maj. D. W. Reed, who had fought at Shiloh with the 12th Iowa Infantry, was named Commission secretary and historian, while Capt. James W. Irwin of Savannah, Tennessee, was made land purchase agent.²

1. Public Law No. 9, 28 Stat. 597, Approved, Dec. 27, 1894.

2. Charles E. Shedd, "A History of Shiloh National Military Park" (NPS, 1954), p. 23.

2. Captain Irwin and the Preliminary Survey

The Commission held its organizational meeting at Pittsburg Landing, on April 2, 1895. In the weeks before the commissioners assembled, the War Department, on its own initiative, had sent two men to examine the area. Maj. George B. Davis, Chairman of the Commission for Publication of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, had spearheaded opposition in the War Department to establishment of a large national military park at Shiloh. He had urged that a small part of the battlefield, perhaps 25 acres, be acquired for memorial purposes.³

Major Davis in late February 1895 had directed Captain Irwin to make an inspection of the area. On the morning of the 27th, Irwin left Savannah, Tennessee, by buggy and made his way to the battlefield, crossing the river at Pittsburg Landing at 10 a.m. Procuring a horse at the landing, Irwin, accompanied by a local guide, spent the day riding over "a good portion" of the field.

Writing Major Davis that evening, Captain Irwin reported that by March 1 he would complete his inspection and be ready "to make a preliminary survey of the perimeter of the field." By "eliminating certain unimportant portions," in accordance with Davis' verbal instructions, he believed he could report the aggregate acreage required by the government.

Work on running the exterior boundary would begin by Monday or Tuesday, March 4 or 5, and should require about four days to complete. With this out of the way, he would "begin to hurry together a rough map of the tracts showing the ownership of land on the battlefield."

Irwin hoped to employ the county surveyor to accomplish this project.⁴ It was March 19 before Secretary of War Lamont got around to

3. Ibid., p. 20.

4. Irwin to Davis, Feb. 27, 1895, NA, RG 92, Correspondence Shiloh National Military Park, 1895-1911. Captain Irwin had been appointed by Secretary of War Daniel Lamont agent for purchase of lands for Shiloh National Military Park at a salary of \$200 per month. Lamont to Irwin, Feb. 11, 1895, NA, RG 92, Correspondence Shiloh National Military Park, 1895-1911.

approving Captain Irwin's request to employ the Hardin County Surveyor at a rate not to exceed four dollars per day to prepare a land ownership map. He was also authorized to hire two assistants.⁵

Irwin in the meantime had commenced the preliminary survey of the exterior boundary.⁶

3. Major Davis Reconnoiters the Battlefield

Major Davis spent two days in mid-March on the battlefield. He found a "high bluff" extending along the Tennessee River from "the bottom lands of Snake Creek on the north to those of Lick Creek on the south." This bluff was intersected by a number of ravines. One of these had been chosen before the war as "a landing place for steamers and given the name Pittsburg Landing." From this landing a county road led west to Purdy. The Corinth road diverged from the Purdy road near Shiloh Church, about one and one-half miles west of the landing. A third important road paralleled the river connecting Crump's Landing with Hamburg.

These county roads, as well as those opened by the local farmers, were "dirt roads." Poorly maintained, they were next to impassible in wet weather. They had been opened to enable farmers residing some distance from the Tennessee River to reach Pittsburg Landing, their usual means of "communication with the outside world." Such commerce as was maintained was by Tennessee River steamboats, which tied up at Pittsburg Landing several times a week.

The bluff, which at Pittsburg Landing rose 100 feet above the river, sloped gradually as it receded westward from the river. Major Davis saw

5. Lamont to Davis, March 19, 1895, NA, RG 92, Correspondence Shiloh NMP, 1895-1911.

6. Irwin to Davis, March 5, 1895, NA RG 92, Correspondence Shiloh NMP, 1895-1911.

that the terrain across which the armies battled was "somewhat undulating and now," as in 1862, was covered with "a growth of young oak timber." There were "occasional small clearings, very few of which existed during the battle; the clearings and open spaces of that time having grown up to small timber." Local farmers, he learned, usually had two holdings, one in the bottoms and a smaller one on the plateau. This practice was occasioned by annual floods, which made "it impossible to reside in the low bottom lands adjoining the river during the season of high water."⁷

The ground cover had "changed much in detail, but little in its general aspect," in 33 years. According to local people only "one building now in existence" was standing in April 1862, and "its tenure is somewhat insecure." Moreover, Major Davis was unable to attribute any significance to the subject structure. All other buildings then extant, most of which were log, had been destroyed by fire in the intervening years. Major Davis forecast that the Commission would encounter grave difficulties in identifying and marking troop positions and camps, because of changes in ground cover; the destruction of buildings which might have served as landmarks; and "the shifting character of the fight of the first day and the meagre and unsatisfactory character of the official reports."⁸

4. Major Davis Recommends the Commission Prepare a Topographical Map

On his return to Washington, Major Davis advised Secretary of War Lamont that the first duty of the Commission should be preparation of an accurate topographical map to be used as a base for determining troop positions and to show the "extent of each land-owner's holding." Upon this base map would be plotted the troop positions. Once this

7. Davis to Lamont, March 18, 1895, NA, RG 92, Correspondence Shiloh NMP, 1895-1911.

8. Ibid.

was done, it would be possible to determine: (a) the minimum acreage to be acquired; (b) what roads outside the park to acquire "to enable the several positions to be marked;" and (c) the extent of each owner's property, so "the Commission may know whether it is necessary, or desirable, to purchase the whole or a part of each tract shown on the map for park purposes."⁹

B. The Preparation of the Shiloh Topographical Map

1. Atwell Thompson is Employed as Park Engineer

By the time the Commissioners assembled at Pittsburg Landing for their organizational meeting in the first week of April 1895, Captain Irwin had completed a preliminary survey of the boundary. Before adjourning on the 9th, the Commission hired Atwell Thompson as park engineer at a salary of \$150 per month. Thompson currently held a similar position with the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park. But with development of that area nearing completion, Thompson was interested in meeting a new challenge. Having been appraised by Secretary of War Lamont of Major Davis' recommendations, the Commissioners instructed Thompson to give the highest priority to a topographical survey of the area and preparation of a contoured base map.

Thompson would secure his release from the Chickamauga Park, turn over his duties to his successor, and be ready to begin the Shiloh topographical survey on May 1. The Commission at the same time directed Captain Irwin to "commence work at once with the county surveyor, laying out the property ownership lines."¹⁰

Irwin's force, the county surveyor and six men, encountered grave difficulties in establishing and running the property lines.

9. Ibid.

10. Cadle to Davis, April 15, 1895, NA, RG 92, Correspondence Shiloh NMP, 1895-1911. Thompson had been appointed Park Engineer for the Chickamauga-Chattanooga NMP on December 27, 1891.

Many boundary markers could not be located, and when found the description given in the deeds varied. Progress was so slow and unsatisfactory that Commissioner Cadle ordered the subject survey suspended on April 29.¹¹

2. Work Begins on the Topographical Survey

Atwell Thompson was as good as his word, and by May 1, 1895, he had established himself at Pittsburg Landing and had commenced the topographical survey of the National Military Park. Two transit parties were employed--one led by A. M. Kirby and the other by W. J. Keller.

The first project undertaken by the parties was a survey of an east-west line representing the southern boundary of the park, as defined by the Act establishing the area. Stakes were driven into the ground along this line at 200-foot intervals and "carefully centered by chain and transit." From these stakes north-south lines were projected and marked. These north-south lines would serve as base points from which measurements could be "taken to all features and all objects existing on the Battlefield."

After a sufficient number of these lines had been surveyed, a level party was turned to by Engineer Thompson. By June 30, Line No. 64 had been run.

A survey of the Corinth-Pittsburg Landing road as far as Shiloh Church and of the road from Brown's Landing to its intersection with the Corinth-Pittsburg road was also completed before the end of Fiscal Year 1895.¹²

11. Cadle to Davis, April 25, 1895, NA, RG 92, Correspondence Shiloh NMP, 1895-1911.

12. Thompson to Cadle, July 9, 1895, Thompson's Letter Book, May 25, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, Files SNMP.

3. Unforeseen Difficulties Cause Delays

Line 100 was run on July 23. The survey was accelerated as the lines became shorter, the crews having passed to the east of the Snake Creek bridge.¹³ Work had been slowed by a run-away on Saturday, the 20th. Both transit parties were returning from work, when the mules bolted. Before going very far the wagon crashed into a tree, scattering the 13 passengers on the ground, seriously bruising several, and breaking one of the transits. It was several days before Colonel Cadle could forward a replacement from Cincinnati.¹⁴

The weather now took a turn for the worse, and the sun beat down unmercifully. Taking cognizance of this situation and fearing the possible loss of men from sunstroke, Thompson on August 2 instructed Kirby and Keller to rest their men for two hours during the heat of the day. This practice was continued until the weather moderated.¹⁵

4. The Transit and Level Parties Complete Their Tasks

The men now worked harder and longer hours. Thompson on September 4 notified Colonel Cadle that the topographical survey is "nearing completion," and should be finished by the 15th. This would be about a month earlier than anticipated. The level crew was moving more deliberately, but they should be finished, nevertheless, by October 15.¹⁶

Thompson had judged his men correctly. On September 12, 1895, three days ahead of schedule, the transit work was completed. The lines

13. Thompson to Cadle, July 23, 1895, Thompson's Letter Book, May 25, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

14. Thompson to Reed, July 26, 1895, Thompson's Letter Book, May 25, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

15. Thompson to Cadle, Aug. 2, 1895, Thompson's Letter Book, May 25, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

16. Thompson to Cadle, Sept. 4, 1895, Thompson's Letter Book, May 25, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

varied in length from a maximum of three and one-half miles to a minimum of two miles.¹⁷

By mid-October the level crew was through and Engineer Thompson notified Colonel Cadle that he had entered nearly "all the topography" on his map, employing a contour interval of ten feet. He would not show fences on this map, but would indicate "the boundaries of all open land now on the field, that is to say, a heavy dotted line will divide the forest from the cleared lands everywhere they occur." This would make it easier for Major Reed to enter thereon the troop positions and camps.¹⁸

5. Establishing the Property Lines

Captain Irwin and the county surveyor had botched the survey of the property lines. In discussions with the landowners, Engineer Thompson was dismayed to learn that they knew little about their boundary markers. It had accordingly been impossible to locate them on his topographical survey. If Colonel Cadle were agreeable, Thompson would employ one of his transit parties to establish these lines as soon as the topographical survey was finished. He was satisfied that most of the property lines could be identified without much trouble, with the cooperation of the owners. This would enable the Commission to "avoid the necessity of carting in the Co. Surveyor except where we fail to satisfy both parties."¹⁹

Colonel Cadle notified Thompson to proceed, and one of the transit parties was retained on the payroll to establish and run the property lines. Atwell Thompson, unlike Irwin, knew what he was doing and by

17. Thompson to Cadle, Oct. 2, 1895, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

18. Thompson to Cadle, Oct. 16, 1895, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

19. Thompson to Cadle, Sept. 4, 1895, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

October the Chambers, McGavock, Maxwell, Bell, Hagy, Harris, Tilghman, and Schoolhouse tracts had been surveyed. Relaying this information to Colonel Cadle, Thompson expressed surprise at finding so "many grave errors in the Co. Surveyor's work."²⁰

By January 1, 1896, sufficient progress had been made in running the property lines to enable Thompson to lay off all his crew, except M. A. Kirby, W. M. Pride, and J. K. Duncan.²¹

6. Thompson Completes His Topographical Map

Thompson by November 27 had progressed to the point where he mailed to Colonel Cadle a tracing of his "preliminary map." Not all the property lines had been added, but enough were shown to answer current needs.²² Seven weeks later, Thompson advised General Buell (who was to be expected was intensely interested in the mapping) that he had finished the pencil draft of the topographical map and was now "inking it in." Although he was making satisfactory progress, he was unable to predict when it would be finished. Thompson did not propose to locate any troop positions or camps on his map, as this was the Commission's responsibility.²³

20. Thompson to Cadle, Oct. 2, 1895, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

21. Thompson to Cadle, Jan. 2, 1896, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

22. Thompson to Cadle, Nov. 27, 1895, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

23. Thompson to Buell, Jan. 20, 1896, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

By March 22, 1896, Atwell Thompson had finished his large scale topographical map.²⁴ He showed the map to the Commissioners and Major Reed, when they convened at Pittsburg Landing on April 8 for their second on-site meeting. The map was approved and a copy forwarded to the War Department for review.²⁵

7. The Topographical Survey is Extended

While reconnoitering the area, it now became apparent to General Buell that the topographical survey should be extended southward to include the Bark road and intervening landscape; Lick Creek as far upstream as the crossings used by the Confederates; and the area as far west as Howell Branch, together with the old roads leading from the Bark road toward Lick Creek, along with the Snake Creek bottom.²⁶

General Buell's request was approved by the War Department, and field work was commenced on these new surveys on May 1.²⁷ Progress was rapid. By August 1896 the survey of the battlefield south and west of the statutory limits was completed, and the data entered on the topographical map.²⁸

24. Thompson to Cadle, March 12, 1896, and Thompson to Buell, March 16, 1896, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1896--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

25. "Rules to be Observed in Preparing the Battle Map," April 8, 1896, NA, RG 92, Correspondence SNMP, 1895-1911.

26. Annual Report of the Engineer in Charge for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1896, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

27. Thompson to Cadle, April 20 and May 6, 1896, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

28. Cadle to Davis, Sept. 30, 1896, NA, RG 92, Correspondence SNMP, 1895-1911.

C. The Commission's Historical Base Map

1. The Commission's Ground Rules

In the months before the Commission held its second meeting at Pittsburg Landing, Engineer Thompson began locating the historic features. Writing Major Reed on January 3, 1896, Thompson promised to locate "the old roads and old fields." He would be assisted by long-time residents of the area.²⁹

In carrying out this project, Thompson and his men in reconnoitering the woods and hollows pinpointed many "camp pits" and other evidence of camp sites.³⁰

At their April 1896 meeting, the Commissioners established ground rules to be followed in preparation of the Shiloh Historical Base and Troop Movement Maps. It was agreed that as far as can be ascertained "every natural feature of ground within the park limits--surface undulations, creeks, ravines, open woods, and thickets," along with every man-made feature in existence at the time of the battle would be shown on the Historical Base Map.

Thompson's topographical survey would be used for all "natural features, unless changes shall appear to have taken place since the battle; and for all artificial features which shall be clearly shown to have been in existence" in April 1862.

It was decided that "the representations of houses, cleared fields, roads" and other man-made features shown on the Thom and Michler Maps would be "accepted as substantially" correct, subject "to such modifications

29. Thompson to Reed, Jan. 3, 1896, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6 1897, files SNMP.

30. Thompson to Cadle, Dec. 10, 1895, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

in regard to exact location as the present more precise survey, or other satisfactory evidence, may show to be proper."³¹

The map prepared by Col. George Thom for Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck immediately after the battle was deemed to be very accurate. Col. Nicholas Michler had prepared a map at the same time for General Buell, detailing the movements and field of operations of the Army of the Ohio. Subsequently, Capt. A. T. Andreas had prepared a map for General Buell, embracing "all of the accurate features" of Thom's and Michler's, "with a correction of some of their defects."³²

In determining camp locations, the Official Records, along with other written or oral evidence, would be considered, in conjunction with the topography and surface remains.

No clearing or work of any sort aimed at restoration of the battlefield would be undertaken until the Troop Movement Maps had been approved by the Commission.³³

2. General Buell Assists with the Project

General Buell, being more familiar with the battlefield than the other commissioners, remained at Pittsburg Landing for several days after the meeting to assist Engineer Thompson in locating natural and historic

31. "Rules to be Observed in Preparing the Battle Map," April 8, 1896, NA, RG 92, Correspondence SNMP, 1895-1911.

32. Cadle to Lamont, June 14, 1895, NA, RG 92, Correspondence SNMP, 1895-1911.

33. "Rules to be Observed in preparing the Battle Map," April 8, 1896, NA, RG 92, Correspondence SNMP, 1895-1911.

features existing at the time of the battle. They carefully reconnoitered the field, "taking all the official war maps along, and by their aid, and the assistance of one of the old inhabitants, who has always lived in the vicinity, together with the evidence presented by the ground itself. When scrutinized, "they identified very satisfactorily all the old roads, and nearly all the other war features." These details were added to Thompson's Topographical Map.³⁴

3. Locating the Historic Roads and Traces

In establishing the roads and traces as they existed at the time of the battle, Engineer Thompson relied on the Thom and Michler Maps. Although many of these roads had been realigned in the 33 years since the battle, Thompson was usually able to find evidence of the historic alignment.³⁵

4. The Commission Loses its Site Identification Champion

Until his death on November 19, 1898, General Buell took a keen interest in pinpointing and identifying historic features. To reconcile differences in the "After Action Reports," Buell frequently called on Atwell Thompson to comb the area for "traces of camps, old house sites, old fields and various other marks."³⁶ Buell's interest in site identification was not shared by the other commissioners, Major Reed, or his successor. Henceforth, little if any time was devoted to this important aspect of the Commission's work.

34. Annual Report of the Engineer in Charge for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1896, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

35. Cadle to Secretary of War, Oct. 31, 1899, Cadle's Letters--1899, files SNMP.

36. Thompson to Cadle, Dec. 8, 1898, Thompson's Letters--1898, files SNMP.

5. Interpreting the River Stage for April 6-7, 1862

The Tennessee River rose to 16.8 feet on the Pittsburg Landing gauge in early December 1896, and Atwell Thompson toured the area "to get a clear idea of the condition of the battle stage of back water in the creeks and branches." When the water reaches 19.5 feet on the gauge, he reported, "back water in Snake Creek will reach to 2.6 feet below the floor of the existing 'Wallace' bridge, and will partially overflow the approaches on each side. This will also correspond with contour 210 on my map." The last rise was to within 2.7 feet of what he presumed battle stage was.

He had sent Kirby to make a survey of Snake Creek from its mouth to the "Wallace" bridge. Kirby found that it would take at least ten more feet of water to put Snake Creek out of its banks, except in a few places where streams fed into it. Meanwhile, Thompson had reconnoitered Dill Branch and the streams running into the Tennessee at Brown's Landing. He saw that another three-foot rise in the river would not do "more than fill the courses of these streams." This satisfied Thompson that the Thom and Michler Maps did not represent the stage of the water on April 6 and 7, 1862, as he did not believe the Tennessee was "up so high, on that day, as the maps would show." He concluded that the river must have risen after the battle, and while they were making their surveys. "Therefore the overflows shown in these war maps" was wrong, if they represented conditions during the battle.³⁷

6. The Historic Features are Entered on the Topographical Map

Historic features (fields, orchards, roads, and buildings) were entered on the Historical Base Map, along with the Union camps identified by the Commissioners during their September 1896 Pittsburg Landing meeting.

37. Thompson to Cadle, Dec. 9, 1896, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

From this tracing, which measured 5 x 7 feet, a number of blue-prints were made, some of which were mounted on canvas. These were distributed to the Commission and Secretary to be used in preparation of the Troop Movement Maps.³⁸

D. Mapping for the Commission, 1896-1902

1. Mapping Wallace's April 6, 1862, Route from Crump's Landing

Thompson in the winter of 1895-96 made a survey of the roads and watercourses in the area over which Maj. Gen. Lew Wallace marched his division from Crump's Landing to Shiloh on April 6, 1862. Using this data, Thompson compiled a map which he forwarded to Colonel Cadle for review.³⁹

When he compared Thompson's Map with the one prepared for General Wallace by Hardin County Surveyor George W. Harbert and published, Colonel Cadle observed a number of significant differences in the routes of march as shown by Thompson and on "Wallace's lithographed map."⁴⁰

Rather than involve the Commission in a controversy on this long-standing dispute, Colonel Cadle suppressed Thompson's map of Wallace's April 6 march. Thompson made a new tracing, "leaving off all references to Wallace except the position of his Brigades at Crump's, Stony Lonesome and Adamsville." By this action, the Commission avoided getting involved in this old dispute between General Wallace and his

38. Cadle to Davis, Sept. 30, 1896, NA, RG 92, Correspondence SNMP, 1895-1911; Thompson to Cadle, Dec. 8, 1898, Thompson's Letter Book--1898, files SNMP.

39. Annual Report of the Engineer in Charge for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1896, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

40. Cadle to Looney, March 16, 1896, Ltrs. Sent, Colonel Cadle, SNMP.

partisans and those supporting the position taken by General Grant in his "After Action Reports."⁴¹

Six years later, after reconnoitering the route with General Wallace, Thompson in January 1902 prepared a revised map depicting Wallace's march from Crump's to the battlefield.⁴²

2. Other Maps Prepared by Thompson and His Staff

During the summer of 1897, Atwell Thompson prepared on his own time a map of the battlefield at a scale of 600 feet to the inch. On it he entered the roads as they were in 1862, along with the historic fields and houses. In pencil he added Union camp sites.⁴³

His object was to have a hardy document on which to show the troop positions. This map was sufficiently far advanced by August 15 to enable Thompson to enter upon it the battle lines as laid out by Major Reed. This task had been completed by October 14, and in the following weeks a number of blueprints were made. On these Thompson colored the troop positions, using red for the Confederate and yellow for the Union. These prints "presented a neat appearance, and a comprehensive though preliminary exhibition of the first day's fight."

Thompson in the winter of 1897-98 commenced "two large skeleton maps made to a scale of 400 feet to an inch on which to place permanently, when the proper time came, the troop positions for the first and second day's fight." By December 1898, the maps were ready for the troop positions.

41. Cadle to Reed, Feb. 16, 1896, Ltrs. Sent, Colonel Cadle, SNMP.

42. Thompson to Cadle, Feb. 1, 1902, Thompson's Letter Book, files SNMP.

43. Thompson to Buell, March 16, 1898, Thompson's Letter Book, Jan. 7, 1897--Oct. 3, 1898, files SNMP.

While A. M. Kirby was preparing a map of the theatre of operations, Thompson drew "a small map of the battlefield on a scale of 1200 feet to the inch, completing it in every particular." The map, done in color, was 21 x 28 inches, and from it Thompson had 11 x 14-inch photographs made. These proved useful to the state commissions in studying the battlefield.⁴⁴

In July 1903 work was commenced on "two large maps, 400 feet to the inch, one for the first day's and one for the second day's fight." These would be the Commission's final maps and were "finished in time for exhibition at the St. Louis World's fair."⁴⁵

E. The Commission Re-establishes the Historic Ground Cover

On studying the Historical Base Map prepared by Thompson and comparing it with existing conditions, the Commissioners saw that in the 34 years since the battle many of the historic fields had been allowed to "grow up with trees." The Commission agreed to re-establish these fields, while allowing fields cleared since 1862 to be reclaimed by the forest.⁴⁶

At the same time, "grovers" would be employed to remove underbrush. Thompson in carrying out this project would take care to retain the undergrowth in "such places," as the "After Action Reports" referred to as grown up in "thick underbrush."⁴⁷

44. Thompson to Cadle, Dec. 8, 1898, Thompson's Letter Book--1898, files SNMP.

45. Thompson to Cadle, Aug. 27, 1903; Report of the Work Done on SNMP during the Year Ending Aug. 31, 1903, Thompson's Letter Book, files SNMP.

46. Cadle to Secretary of War, Feb. 8, 1898, and Oct. 31, 1899, Cadle's Letters--1898-99, files SNMP.

47. Ibid.

Work on these projects commenced in mid-April 1898, when a 10-man crew was turned to cutting out underbrush and "clearing up the woods on the Meek's property." By July 9 the men had cut and burned all the underbrush on the Meek's tract, and had started work on the Walker land.⁴⁸

A heat wave gripped the region in late August, and the "grovers" were "burned out." Seven of them quit, and although several new hands were hired, the three old hands asked to be furloughed until September 1.⁴⁹ After the weather moderated, there were no further labor difficulties, and by December 1 230 acres had been groved, including the Meek, Walker, and Chambers tracts.

January 1899 found the "grovers" at work south of Woolf field, and they would soon have the area occupied by the camps of Marsh's brigade cleared. They would then be turned to the Duncan property.⁵⁰

To facilitate this project people living near the park, not owning timbered land, were permitted to haul off the felled timber and underbrush.

The "grovers" were continued on the payroll during the next two years. In Fiscal Year 1901 a number of trees were set out "to define" the boundaries of historic fields being re-established by the Commission. A number of these died during the winter of 1901-02 and were replaced the next spring. In addition, a number of young trees were planted in.

48. Thompson to Looney, July 9, 1898, Thompson's Letter Book, Jan. 7, 1897--Oct. 3, 1898, files SNMP.

49. Thompson to Cadle, Aug. 26, 1898, Thompson's Letter Book, Jan. 7, 1897--Oct. 3, 1898, files SNMP.

50. Thompson to Reed, Jan. 6, 1899, Thompson's Letters--1899, files SNMP.

the open ground adjacent to Pittsburg Landing. "A variety of nuts and acorns were planted in some of the fields, still under fence," that had been cleared since the war. These had "come up very nicely" and had received attention during the year by cutting the weeds and hoeing the ground around them.⁵¹

Atwell Thompson in the autumn of 1902 and the following spring had trees set out to mark the boundaries of Woolf, Jones, Mulberry, Cavalry, Sowell, Duncan, Rhea, Wicker, and Review fields, "as they were at the time of the battle." Scattered trees were also planted about the Illinois Monument, as that area had been wooded in April 1862. Most of the trees survived. Additional trees were to be planted along the Purdy-Hamburg road, "where woods existed at the time of the battle but which is now open."

Willow cuttings had been set out along the river at the landing and national cemetery, and "in the ditch along the main road to Pittsburg Landing, and Japanese Quince shrubs . . . were planted at the heads "of nearly all the ravines round the Landing."⁵²

The Shiloh National Military Park Commission by 1905 had discharged its legal obligation to restore the battlefield "to its condition at the time of the battle." The historic fields were successfully maintained by the persons charged with administration of the park until after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the United States entry into World War II. A reduction in funds for maintenance of Shiloh National Military Park ensued, and aerial photographs taken in 1947 show young trees and underbrush springing up along watercourses passing through the historic fields and intruding into corners where the men neglected to mow. This situation has continued; by September 1972 the configuration and size of certain of the fields bears little resemblance whatsoever to the historic outlines.

51. Cadle to Reed, Sept. 18, 1899; Thompson to Cadle, Report of Work Done at SNMP during the year ending August 31, 1902, files SNMP.

52. Thompson to Cadle, Aug. 27, 1903; "Report of Work Done on SNMP, during year ending Aug. 31, 1903," files SNMP.

DOCUMENTATION TO IDENTIFY HISTORICAL FEATURES
AND VEGETATIVE COVER FOUND ON THE HISTORICAL BASE MAP
FOR SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

NOVEMBER 1972

Grid A-5

Snake Creek found:

Topographical Map of the Battlefield of Shiloh, prepared by Atwell Thompson, RG 77, National Archives; cited hereinafter as Thompson's Map.

Other watercourse found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

"Map of the Field of Shiloh, near Pittsburgh [sic] Landing, Tenn., showing the positions of the U. S. forces under Maj.-Gen'l U. S. Grant, U. S. Vol., and Maj.-Gen'l D. C. Buell, U. S. Vol., on the 6th and 7th of April, 1862. Surveyed under the direction of Col. Geo. Thom, Chief of Top'l Eng'rs, Dept. of the Mississippi. Revised and Amended by Gen'l D. C. Buell"; cited hereinafter as Buell's Map.

Grid A-7

Snake Creek found:

Thompson's Map

Tennessee River found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Buell's Map

"Map of the Field of Shiloh, near Pittsburgh [sic] Landing, Tenn., showing the positions of the U. S. forces under Maj. Genl. U. S. Grant, U. S. Vol. and Maj. Genl. D. C. Buell, U. S. Vol. on the 6th and 7th of April, 1862. Surveyed under the Direction of Col. Geo. Thom, Chief of Engrs."; cited hereinafter as Thom's Map.

Gen. William T. Sherman, addressing the "Society of the Army of the Tennessee," meeting at Cincinnati in April, 1881, informed his comrades

that Colonel Thom, a member of Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck's staff, reached Pittsburg Landing several weeks after the battle. Whereupon he caused the battlefield "to be surveyed, and his map is still the standard one." As Colonel Thom was not present during the battle, Sherman was "certain he had located on his map the several divisions incorrectly." He was speaking advisedly, because he knew that Thom had errored in locating several of the positions held by his division. He had accordingly "prepared a tracing" of Thom's map, and on it had "located the troops" as he believed "they were at the beginning and end of the first day."

Moreover, Sherman continued, the "many roads indicated" on the Thom map

did not exist at the time we first reached "Pittsburg Landing" nor at the time of the battle. Then there was but one single road--"the Corinth road,"--which reached the river, affording room for only four or five boats to unload, but as other boats accumulated, other roads were improvised up the hill from the water's edge to the . . . plateau above, and new roads were made by the wagoners hauling out from the boats to the several camps. All these roads as marked on the [Thom] map were mud roads; not roads at all in a military sense, but simply open ways by which six mules could haul about a ton of freight from the river to the camps. The . . . plateau, excepting the cleared fields, was wooded with oak, maple and hickory, the latter in some places so thick that there was real difficulty in forcing one's way through on horseback.

Report of the Proceedings of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee at the Fourteenth Annual Meeting Held at Cincinnati, Ohio, April 6 and 7, 1881 (Cincinnati, 1881), p. 59.

Almost four years later, on November 28, 1884, two weeks before the "Official Map" was sent to press with General Grant's Shiloh article to appear in The Century Magazine for February 1885, an inquiry was addressed to Bvt. Brig. Gen. George Thom concerning its history. He replied that

it was prepared under his direction as Chief of Topographical Engineers on Halleck's staff soon after the

battle, while the Union troops were still encamped on and near the battleground, and that Generals Grant, Buell, and Sherman furnished him with information as to the positions occupied by the troops in the battle.

On December 15, 1884, General Thom "called the attention of General Grant to certain criticisms which General Sherman published on the Official Map . . . of the battle-field," at the Cincinnati meeting of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee.

General Grant replied:

My Dear General Thom: Your letter of the 15th instant was duly received, and I now have yours of the 28th. In regard to the matter of the map which "The Century" magazine is to use in illustration of my article . . . on the battle of Shiloh, I have examined it, and see nothing to criticise. I was not aware before the receipt of your first letter that General Sherman had ever criticized your map of the battle-field of Shiloh.

On June 24, 1885, five months after publication of the Grant article, the editors of Century received a letter from Col. Frederick D. Grant, the General's son, enclosing notes for a revision of the Thom map, and stating, "He [General Grant] would like you to make the changes in the map, indicated." Copies of these letters are found in "Shiloh Reviewed" by Don Carlos Buell, Battles and Leaders of the Civil War (New York, 1956), Vol. 1, p. 508.

Several years later, after the death of his father, Colonel Grant again wrote the editors of Century on this subject. He pointed out:

Father was very ill when the map used with his article, on Shiloh, by "The Century" Co., was submitted to him. He looked at the topography and found it about as he remembered the ground; but after you published it, he read some of the criticisms upon both the article and the map. Thus having his attention called to the subject,

he revised the article, making it more forcible, and directed me to get for his . . . /Personal Memoirs/ the map which was in the possession of Colonel Dayton, Secretary of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee.

This map proved to be more satisfactory to him than the . . . /Thom Map/ he had first used, as it agreed more perfectly with his statements and recollections of the positions occupied by the troops at the end of the first day's battle. A copy of this letter is found in "The Battle of Shiloh" by U. S. Grant, Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. 1, pp. 470-71.

The only differences between the Thom Map and the Army of the Tennessee Map are the troop positions. The topography, ground cover, and location of man-made features are identical.

Field and fence found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Grid A-8

Diamond Island found:

Thompson's Map

Grid B-4

Snake and Owl Creeks found:

Thompson's Map

Buell's Map

"Map of the Battle Field of Shiloh and Gen'l Lew Wallace's Line of March by Geo. W. Harbert, County Surveyor, Hardin County, Tennessee"; cited hereinafter as Wallace's Map.

Hamburg-Savannah (River) road found:

Buell's Map

Thompson's Map

Wallace's Map

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (73 vols., 128 parts; Washington, 1880-1901), Ser. I, Vol. X, pt. 1, p. 183; cited hereinafter as Official Records.

Wallace's bridge found:

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, pt. 1, p. 183.

General Lew Wallace reported that the River road "crossed Snake Creek by a good bridge close to Pittsburg Landing." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, pt. 1, p. 170.

Woods and swamp found:

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Grid B-5

Snake Creek and other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Hamburg-Savannah (River) road found:

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Thom's Map

Woods and swamp found:

Buell's Map

Thom's Map

Wallace's Map

Fenced field found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Grid B-6

Bell Slough found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Thompson's Map

U. S. Geological Survey--Pittsburg Landing Quadrangle, 7.5 Minutes Series, 1949.

Fenced field found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Farm road found:

Buell's Map

Thom's Map

Woods found:

Buell's Map

Thom's Map

Grid B-7

Tennessee River and Diamond Island found:

Thompson's Map

Snake Creek and Bell Slough found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Thompson's Map

Fields and fences found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Grid B-8

Tennessee River and Diamond Island found:

Thompson's Map

Grid C-3

Owl Creek found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Grid C-4

Owl Creek found:

Thompson's Map

Tilghman (Glover) Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Colonel Thom's map incorrectly locates Tilghman Branch, placing it to the east of the Hamburg-Savannah road.

Secondary watercourse found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Buell's Map

Thom's Map

Wallace's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Fenced field found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Grid C-5

Tilghman (Glover) Branch and secondary watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Hamburg-Savannah (River) road found:

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Thom's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Fenced fields found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Cabins and outbuildings found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Lt. Col. Manning F. Force of the 20th Ohio reported that on the morning of the 7th, "Company D, Captain McElroy, was stationed in a log house outside of the extreme right." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, pt. 1, p. 201.

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Topography found;
Thompson's Map

Grid C-6

Bell Slough and secondary watercourses found:
Thompson's Map

Topography found:
Thompson's Map

Farm roads found:
Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Wallace's Map

Woods found:
Thom's Map
Buell's Map

Fenced fields found:
Thom's Map
Buell's Map

Grid C-7

Tennessee River found:
Thompson's Map

Snake Creek, Bell Slough, and secondary watercourses found:
Thompson's Map

Farm road from Hagy's to Tennessee River found:
Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Wallace's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Sand spit found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Grid D-2

Owl Creek found:

Thompson's Map

Mill found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Grid D-3

Owl Creek found:

Thompson's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Ford found:

Buell's Map

Woods and swamp found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

General Lew Wallace reported, "Back of both fields [Jones' and Sowell's], to the north, was a range of bluffs overlooking the swampy low grounds of Snake [and Owl] Creek[s], heavily timbered. An examination satisfied me that the low grounds afforded absolute protection to my right flank." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, pt. 1, p. 171.

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Farm road found:

Buell's Map

Sowell's Orchard found:

Thompson's Map

Grid D-4

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Road network found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

"Map of the battle of Shiloh made by Genl W. T. Sherman soon after the fight and found among his letters to his wife 1905"; cited herein after as Sherman's Map.

Glover's cabin, outbuildings, fences, and field found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Jones field and fences found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

General Wallace reported that after crossing Tilghman Branch, his brigades reached "the edge of an oblong field [Jones] that extended in a direction parallel with the river." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, pt. 1, p. 171.

David Harman's house, outbuildings, and orchard found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Thompson's Map

"Location and Position of Camp of 11th Illinois Infantry and 15th Iowa line of battle, April 6th, 1862," files SNMP; cited hereinafter as Blackman's Map.

"Record of Burials," Shiloh National Cemetery, files SNMP; cited hereinafter as Record of Burials.

Grid D-5

Tilghman Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Hamburg-Savannah (River) road found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Thom's Map is in error in that it fails to show the subject road extending southeast from Perry's field to its junction with the Corinth-Pittsburg road.

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Perry and Mulberry fields and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Referring to Mulberry field, Col. C. Carroll Marsh, one of McClelland's brigade commanders, reported, "I had gathered quite a force, and formed a line near the camp of the second division, concealing my men in the timber, facing an open field." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, pt. 1, p. 134.

Lt. Col. William D. McCord of the 1st Nebraska (Wallace's division) reported that early on April 7 his regiment occupied a position on the right of Thompson's battery "in an open field immediately in front of a deep ravine Tilghman Hollow and a high ridge beyond." Ibid., p. 197.

Col. John M. Thayer, McCord's brigade commander, reported, that during the night of the 6th, Capt. Noah S. Thompson came up and placed his battery in position in the open field in front. Ibid., p. 193.

James Perry's house and outbuildings found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Woods and swamp found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Dense woods in Tilghman's Hollow found:

General Wallace reported, "Shortly after daybreak Captain Thompson opened fire on a rebel battery posted on a bluff opposite my First Brigade Smith's and across a deep and prolonged hollow, threaded by a creek and densely wooded on both sides." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, pt. 1, p. 170.

Grid D-6

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Chamber's field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

"Sketch of the Battle Field of Shiloh, showing the disposition of the Troops under the command of Major General D. C. Buell on the 6th and 7th of April 1862," by N. Michler, Col. Topographical Engineers; cited hereinafter as Michler's Map.

"Plan of the field of Shiloh; traced from a map by Col. Geo. Thom, position of divisions in black ink, corrected in green from recollections by Col. Thomas Worthington late of the Army of Tennessee [sic]"; cited hereinafter as Worthington's Map.

John G. W. Hagy's field and fence found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Hagy's house and outbuildings found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Corinth-Pittsburg road found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Michler's Map

Wallace's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

In laying off the road from the camp of the 7th Iowa to the Corinth Road, Atwell Thompson encountered problems. He was unable to find any traces of the old road "sufficiently plain to identify that road shown on the Thom Map." He had scaled the Thom Map, "and the measurements are real accurate as far as the Hamburg Cross roads at Union school house." Thompson to Reed, Aug. 16, 1899, Thompson's Letters--1899, files SNMP.

Grid D-7

Tennessee River found:

Thompson's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Michler's Map

Open ground found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Corinth-Pittsburg road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Sherman's Map

Wallace's Map

Other roads leading to Tennessee River found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Worthington's Map

Pittsburg Landing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Worthington's Map

Buildings at Pittsburg Landing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Sherman's Map

Col. Jacob Ammen of Nelson's division reported, "On top of the banks, near some buildings, I found the Thirty-sixth Indiana partly formed . . ." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, pt. 1, p. 333.

Grid E-1

Owl Creek and Shiloh Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Fence and field found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Mill found:

Michler's Map

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Subsequent to the Civil War this mill was owned and operated by Tom Hurley.

Hamburg-Purdy road found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Michler's Map
Wallace's Map
Sherman's Map

Bridges across Owl Creek and Shiloh Branch found:

The following maps show the Hamburg-Purdy road crossing Shiloh Branch above its confluence with Owl Creek: Thom's Map, Michler's Map, and Buell's Map.

The following sources show the Hamburg-Purdy road crossing Owl Creek northeast of the Shiloh Branch confluence: Sherman's Map, Wallace's Map, and Worthington's Map.

Squire McCullers and Henry Davis told Atwell Thompson in May 1896 that the Hamburg-Purdy road in 1862 crossed Owl Creek where it now does. They stated that "the road shown on the Thom Map crossing Shiloh Branch and then Owl Creek had been abandoned before the war and the existing road made." Thompson to Cadle, May 10, 1896, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

Grid E-2

Owl Creek found:

Thompson's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Woods and swamp found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Wallace's Map

Fields and fences found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Michler's Map
Wallace's Map

Grid E-3

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Michler's Map
Wallace's Map
Sherman's Map

Sowell field and fence found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Wallace's Map

General Wallace reported on the morning of April 7 that his troops advanced to the edge of an oblong field [Jones'] that extended in a direction parallel with the river. On its right was a narrow strip of woods, and beyond that lay another cleared field [Sowell's]. Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, pt. 1, pp. 170-71.

Henry Davis in March 1896 told Thompson that the timber line on the south and east of Sowell field had "not varied a foot since the

battle." Thompson to Blackman, March 16, 1896, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP. E. C. Blackman was a member of the Iowa Shiloh Battlefield Commission.

Crescent field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Colonel Thayer of Lew Wallace's division reported that when the order came to advance, "we did so, and emerged from the timber into a large, open field /Sowell's/. Moving my brigade in full line of battle, reserving our fire, we crossed a deep ravine and passed up onto the ridge beyond /Crescent field/ under a terrible fire of musketry and artillery from the rebels." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X pt. 1, p. 193.

Davis cabin and outbuildings found:

Henry Davis in 1862 lived with his parents in a field "just south of Sowell's field. His parents' home was burned during the battle. In 1896 remains of the chimney were still in evidence." Thompson to Blackman, Jan. 10, 1896, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

Burial Records--Shiloh National Cemetery

Grid E-4

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Buell's Map

Jones field and fences found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Buell's Map
Wallace's Map
Blackman's Map

General Lew Wallace reported that on the morning of April 7, 1862, his division reached "the edge of an oblong field [Jones'] that extended in a direction parallel with the river." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. x, pt. 1, pp. 170-71.

Cavalry field and fences found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Michler's Map

George Sowell's cabin and outbuildings found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Blackman's Map
Burial Records--Shiloh National Cemetery

Wesley Sowell's cabin found:

Burial Records--Shiloh National Cemetery

White Post found:

Burial Records--Shiloh National Cemetery

Grid E-5

Tilghman Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Hamburg-Savannah (River) road found:

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Cavalry field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Northwest boundary of Cloud field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Worthington's Map

Fenced field west of Cloud field found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Grid E-6

Dill Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Corinth-Pittsburg road found:

Michler's Map

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Hamburg-Savannah (River) road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Cloud field and fences found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Sherman's Map

Worthington's Map

Wallace's Map

Colonel Ammen reported that on April 7, 1862, his brigade crossed Dill Branch and pushed forward. "It is now light, and we are again in motion through wet undergrowth and forest. Rain has ceased. An occasional shot is fired by our skirmishers, and now we are at a clearing Cloud field, and some cabins and tents belonging to Hurlbut's division are standing We cross the open space and halt in the forest." Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol. X, pt. 1, p. 335.

Double-log house and outbuildings found:

Michler's Map

Burial Records--Shiloh National Cemetery

Grid E-7

Tennessee River found:

Thompson's Map

Dill Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Indian Mounds found:

Thompson's Map

Burial Records--Shiloh National Cemetery

Road to Brown's Landing found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Road near Pittsburg Landing found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Worthington's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Dense undergrowth along Dill Branch found:

Colonel Ammen reported that on the morning of the 7th, his brigade crossed Dill Branch, passing through the "undergrowth." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, pt. 1, p. 335.

Grid F-1

Owl Creek found:

Thompson's Map

Shiloh Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Dillon Branch found:

U. S. Geological Survey--Pittsburg Landing Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute Series, 1941.

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Hamburg-Purdy road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Sherman's Map

Wallace's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Fields and fences found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Grid F-2

Shiloh Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Col. John A. McDowell, one of Sherman's brigade commanders, reported that his command was ordered to fall back to the Purdy road. This retreat, he continued, "was accomplished with difficulty, from the extended front of our line, at that time three-quarters of a mile in length, on and over a broken wooded surface." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, pt. I, p. 255.

Hamburg-Purdy road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Farm road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Fenced field and cabin found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Michler's Map

Grid F-3

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Wallace's Map

Ben Howell's cabin, outbuildings, fences, and field found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Buell's Map
Wallace's Map
Burial Records--Shiloh National Cemetery

Hamburg-Purdy road found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Sherman's Map
Wallace's Map
Buell's Map

Corinth road found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Sherman's Map
Wallace's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Buell's Map

Water Oaks Pond found:

Thompson's Map

Lt. Col. William Hall of the 11th Iowa reported, "In a very few moments I received orders from Major-General McClernand to advance to the front, which I did at a double-quick for a distance of over a quarter of a mile, my right resting on a pond." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, pt. I, p. 130.

Buell's Map

Other pond found:

Thompson's Map

Grid F-4

Water Oaks Pond found:

Thompson's Map

Colonel Hall's "After Action Report," Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X,
pt. I, p. 130.

Buell's Map

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Hamburg-Purdy road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Corinth road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Sherman's Map

Buell's Map

Woolf field and fences found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Worthington's Map

General McClernand reported that on April 7 his command drove the Confederates back and pursued them "with great vigor to the edge of a field /Woolf's/, a half mile east and to the left of my headquarters." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, Pt. 1, p. 120.

Brig. Gen. Alexander McD. McCook reported that one of his brigades (Rousseau's) on the 7th "had the pleasure of retaking General McClernand's headquarters. . . . The enemy fell back over an open field /Woolf's/ and reformed in a skirt of woods beyond." Ibid., p. 303.

Lt. Col. Marcus J. Wright of the 154th Tennessee reported that the regiment, after capturing a four-gun battery, pursued the Federals "until we came to an open field /Woolf's/ some 300 yards in advance." Here the unit was exposed to the fire of Union sharpshooters, and Wright deemed "it proper to withdraw the regiment from the open field /Woolf's/ into the thick woods through which we had come." Ibid., p. 451.

Review (Drill) field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Sherman's Map

Worthington's Map

General McClernand reported that in deploying his command, "Burrows' Ohio battery was advanced to the center, at a point on the Corinth road, near my headquarters; Schwartz's battery, in support of Sherman, to the right, and McAllister's to the left to command the approach across a field /Review/." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, Pt. 1, pp. 115-16.

Col. Abraham M. Hare, who led McClernand's 1st Brigade, reported that on the morning of April 6, he formed the 8th and 18th Illinois and 13th Iowa into line of battle. Advancing on the double, they took position "in a skirt of woods bordering on a field /Review/." Ibid., p. 124.

Maj. John W. Foster of the 25th Indiana reported that, along with other units of the brigade, his regiment "took position on the edge of the field used as the review ground." Ibid., p. 230.

Duncan field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Worthington's Map

Sherman's Map

Grid F-5

Briar Creek and secondary watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Corinth-Pittsburg road found:

Michler's Map

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Eastern Corinth road found:

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Cloud field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Worthington's Map

Michler's Map

Field and fencing northwest of Cloud field found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wicker field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Sherman's Map

Woods and undergrowth found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Joseph Duncan's cabin and outbuilding found:

Michler's Map

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Duncan field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Sherman's Map

Buell's Map

Lt. Col. James C. Parrott of the 7th Iowa Infantry reported that on the morning of April 6, his regiment was deployed "into line of battle, being in heavy timber, when it advanced to the edge of a field [Duncan]." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, Pt. 1, p. 150.

Colonel Joseph R. Woods of the 12th Iowa reported, "The Eighth Iowa, of Prentiss' division, was on the left of the Fourteenth, forming an angle to the rear with our line. An open field lay in front of our right." Ibid., p. 151.

Maj. Gen. B. Frank Cheatham reported, "At about 10 a.m. I reached the front of an open field [Duncan] lying east of the center of the Federal line of encampments and discovered the enemy in strong force, occupying several log houses. His line extended behind a fence and occupied an abandoned road."

After about an hour, Cheatham launched an attack. His troops advanced "at double-quick time across the open field [Duncan], about 300 yards in width, flanked on one side by a fence and dense thicket of forest trees and undergrowth." Ibid., p. 438.

Grid F-6

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Michler's Map
Wallace's Map

Hamburg-Savannah (River) road found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Buell's Map
Sherman's Map
Wallace's Map

Road to Brown's Landing found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Wallace's Map

Other roads found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map

Widow Wicker's cabins, fences, and field found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Buell's Map
Wallace's Map
Sherman's Map
Burial Records--Shiloh National Cemetery
Worthington's Map

Jason Cloud's cabins, outbuildings, fences, and field found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Buell's Map
Worthington's Map

Colonel Ammen reported, on the morning of April 7, 1862, we arrived "at a clearing /Cloud field/, and some cabins and tents are standing, from which our troops were driven yesterday. We cross the open space /Cloud field/ and halt in the forest." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, Pt. 1, p. 335.

Grid F-7

Tennessee River found:

Thompson's Map

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Indian Mounds found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Road to Brown's Landing found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Brown's Landing found:

Burial Record-Shiloh National Cemetery

Grid G-1

Howell Branch found:

U. S. Geological Survey-Pittsburg Landing Quadrangle

Thompson's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Widow Howell field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Grid G-2

Shiloh Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Woods and swamp found:

Thompson's Map

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Widow Howell field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Small field east of Widow Howell field found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Worthington's Map

Grid G-3

Shiloh Branch found:

Thompson's Map

East Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Buell's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Shiloh Spring found:

Thompson's Map

Rhea Springs found:

Thompson's Map

Briers and grapevines along Shiloh and East Branches found:

Worthington's Map

Brig. Gen. P. R. Cleburne reported, "An almost impassable morass jutting out from the foot of the height on which the enemy's tents stood, impeded the advance of my center." Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol. X, Pt. 1, p. 581.

Col. R. M. Russell of the 12th Tennessee reported, "Pushing still farther forward, a force was found partially concealed in the bushes in front of our left and extending beyond that flank." Ibid., p. 417.

Brig. Gen. William T. Sherman reported, "The fire came from the bushes which line a small stream that rises in the field in front of Appler's camp and flows to the north along my whole front." Ibid., p. 249.

Deadening found:

John A. Cockerill, "A Boy at Shiloh," MOLLUS-Ohio (Cincinnati, 1908), Vol. VI, p. 17; Robert H. Flemming, "The Battle of Shiloh as a Private Saw It," Sketches of War History 1861-1865, MOLLUS-Ohio (Cincinnati, 1908), Vol. VI, p. 114.

Scrub oak found:

T. W. Connelly, History of the Seventieth Ohio Regiment, from its Organization to its Muster Out (Cincinnati, n.d.), pp. 18-19.

Light timbered woods found:

John Bering and Thomas Montgomery, History of the Forty-Eighth Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry, Giving a Complete Account of Regiment. . . (Hillsboro, 1880), pp. 19-20.

Woods found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Michler's Map

Corinth road found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Buell's Map
Sherman's Map

Other roads found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map

Shiloh Church found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Buell's Map
Wallace's Map
Sherman's Map

Small fenced field southwest of Shiloh Church found:

Senator William B. Bate in 1901 told Colonel Cadle and Atwell Thompson that he had been wounded in "the little field that used to be on the west side of the Corinth road at Shiloh Spring." This field was shown on Thompson's Map. Thompson to Reed, July 11, 1901, Thompson's Letter Book, files SNMP.

John Rhea's cabin, outbuildings, field, and fences found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Wallace's Map
Worthington's Map

General Sherman, on the morning of the 6th, "observed heavy battalions of infantry passing obliquely to the left across the open field [Mica's] in Appler's front." Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol. X, Pt. 1, p. 249.

Col. James F. Fagan of the 1st Arkansas reported, "The first casualties which befell it were on the morning of the day, while the regiment was filing through the margin of an old field [Rhea's]." Ibid., p. 487.

Col. B. L. Hodge of the 19th Louisiana reported that, after another unit had captured the battery holding up the advance of the brigade, his regiment advanced and gained "the verge of an old field /Rhea's/." Ibid., p. 492.

Grid G-4

East Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Buell's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Hamburg-Purdy road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Michler's Map

Lost field found:

Squire McCullers in 1896 recalled a 10- or 12-acre cleared field, 800 feet east of the camp of the 4th Illinois Cavalry. Thompson to Cadle, May 10, 1896, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

In February 1897 Atwell Thompson visited "lost field" on separate occasions with Tom Walker and Henry Davis. Walker told him the field extended across the ravine, and that there had been thick brush and timber growing along both sides of the ravine. Davis recalled that the field extended north of

the ravine, but on examining the ground concluded that it did not. Both agreed that the field was not square, the length exceeding the width by a considerable distance. Davis stated, "the field was of a short-long shape."

Thompson concluded that Walker was correct as to the north boundary, because "the fence which was the northern boundary of the field was originally placed on an old land line separating Wicker's land from Barlow's land." The old fence line was still there, having been repaired many times. The other boundaries were not so easily pinpointed, but the "old-timers" agreed "within 50 to 100 feet as to the boundaries, so there cannot be any radical inaccuracies in the location of the 'lost field'." Thompson to Buell, Feb. 6, 1897, Thompson's Letter Book, Jan. 7, 1897--Oct. 3, 1898, files SNMP.

Old Man Fraley had sold the land on which "lost field" was located to Jacob Barnes before the Civil War. Barnes had cleared the field, but he was deceased.

Lee Howell had married a daughter of John C. Rhea about four years before the war. Rhea had lived on the Rowsey place, hence the name Rhea Springs. Howell, although "lost field" was between his and his girl friend's home, had only a vague recollection of it.

Alvis Wicker's business before the war was to split rails and fence fields. He recalled the southeast corner and east line of "lost field." Wicker did not recall whether the field extended across the branch toward the Purdy road, but as Davis, Walker, and McCullers said it had. Thompson took their word for it.

J. W. Bell, prior to the war, had lived in "the Peach Orchard and attended school at Shiloh. En route to school, he had passed lost field." He recalled the field but not its size or configuration.

Another old man told Thompson that Barnes had always referred to the field as his "10-acre field." Thompson to Buell, Feb. 24, 1897, Thompson's Letter Book, Jan. 7, 1897--Oct. 3, 1898, files SNMP.

Barnes' cabin, field, and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Sherman's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Colonel Fagan reported, "It was an hour or more after this [The clash in Rhea field] before we had the first real engagement with the enemy. It occurred in an old field [Barnes'] to the right [east] of the first." Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol. X, Pt. 1, p. 488.

Colonel Hodge reported from Rhea field, "we moved about a half mile to the right and a little in advance, passing through a wheat field [Barnes']. We crossed a road leading in the direction of Hamburg." Ibid., p. 492.

Grid G-5

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Eastern Corinth road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Hamburg-Purdy road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Daniel Davis' cabins, wheatfield, and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Burial Records--Shiloh National Cemetery

Colonel Pagan of the 1st Arkansas reported that about noon on the 6th, "upon the edge of a wheat field [Davis'], to the right of the field last mentioned [Barnes'], the regiment . . . was drawn up in line of battle." Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol. X, Pt. 1, p. 488.

Colonel Hodge of the 19th Louisiana reported that after crossing the Hamburg-Purdy road, his regiment entered a small farm, a log cabin near the center, our line extending across the field." Ibid., p. 492.

On April 7 Col. Thomas T. Crittenden of the 6th Indiana reported that "two of his companies "were faced to the front, behind a low fence, and commanding an open field, about 200 yards in width." Ibid., p. 311.

Barnes field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Sherman's Map

Sarah Bell's cotton field and fences found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Worthington's Map

Wallace's Map

Seymour D. Thompson, Recollections with the Third Iowa Regiment (Cincinnati, 1864), pp. 213, 216-17.

Peach Orchard and W. Manse George's cabin found:

Buell's Map

Col. Amory K. Johnson of the 28th Illinois reported that on the morning of the 6th, his regiment "advanced about a mile to the front of the encampment and formed in line of battle, skirting the south side of the peach-orchard field." His regiment after several hours was redeployed "in the rear of the farm house. . . ." Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol. X, Pt. 1, p. 213.

Brig. Gen. Jacob G. Lauman reported that on the 6th, his brigade was "formed in line of battle, with an open field on the left and a heavy growth of underbrush in front of us." When the Rebels attempted to cross the Widow Bell's field, Lauman ordered his left wing to move up to the fence. . . ." Ibid., p. 233.

Lt. Cuthbert W. Laing of the 2nd Michigan Battery reported that he retired his guns from the Widow Bell's field "through an orchard." Soon thereafter, he "advanced again still farther to the right, running up a narrow road, and came into battery beside a log house." Ibid., p. 245.

Grid G-6

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Hamburg-Purdy road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Hamburg-Savannah (River) road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Sarah Bell's cabin, outbuildings, fences, and old cotton field found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Burial Records--Shiloh National Cemetery

Thompson, Recollections with the Third Iowa, pp. 213, 226-17.

Peach Orchard found:

Buell's Map

Bloody Pond found:

Thompson's Map

Log cabins and fencing east of Hamburg-Savannah (River) road found:

Michler's Map

Larkin Bell's Apple Orchard and fencing found:

Thompson's Map

Burial Records--Shiloh National Military Park

Noah Cantrell's frame house, field, and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

B. J. D. Irwin, "Notes on the Introduction of Tent Field Hospitals in War," from the Proceedings of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, p. 26; The Story of the Fifty-fifth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War, 1861-1865, compiled by committee (Clinton, Mass., 1887), p. 68.

Larkin Bell's cabins, field, and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Michler's Map

Grid G-7

Tennessee River found:

Thompson's Map

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Ponds found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Road to Upper Landing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Upper Landing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Grid G-8

Cabin found:

Thom's Map

Grid H-1

Howell Branch found:

U. S. Geological Survey-Pittsburg Landing Quadrangle

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Widow Howell field found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Widow Mary Howell's house (hospital), outbuildings, and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Grid H-2

West Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Buell's Map

U.S. Geological Survey-Pittsburg Landing Quadrangle

Wallace's Map

Thom's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Cotton Press found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Michler's Map

Sherman's Map

Fraley (old cotton) field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, Pt. 1, pp. 591, 603; U. S. Grant, "The Battle of Shiloh," Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. 1, p. 470; Bearss, "Narrative Report for Wayside Exhibits, Shiloh National Military Park, Painting # 1--The Ball Opens in Fraley Field," pp. 11-12.

Wood's field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Grid H-3

Shiloh Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Corinth road found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Buell's Map
Wallace's Map
Sherman's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Buell's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Buell's Map

Seay's cotton field and fencing found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Wallace's Map
Buell's Map

D. Lloyd Jones, "The Battle of Shiloh," MOLLUS-Wisconsin, Vol. IV,
(Milwaukee, 1914), pp. 56-7.

Two cabins found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Michler's Map

Rhea field and fencing found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map
Wallace's Map

Grid H-4

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Wallace's Map

Buell's Map

Eastern Corinth road found:

Buell's Map

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Michler's Map

Grid H-5

Locust Grove Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Eastern Corinth road found:

Buell's Map

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Atwell Thompson in 1900 learned that the camp of the 16th Wisconsin Infantry was in a field which had been cleared since the war. The Eastern Corinth road passed through the left center of this camp, "diverging from what we have supposed was the Eastern Corinth road just south of the camp of Hickenlooper's battery." Thompson's Map showed the Eastern Corinth road passing through Spain's field, but this was in error. A reconnaissance disclosed how this had occurred. After the war the ground where the 16th Wisconsin had camped was cleared and fenced. This caused the Eastern Corinth road to be relocated through Spain's field.

The landowner, Jesse Curtis, was agreeable to rebuilding the road on its old bed, through his field, and while it would make quite a bend it would be on the crest of a ridge. Thompson to Reed, Feb. 2, 1900, Thompson's Letter Books, files SNMP.

Peter Spain's cabin, field, and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Grid H-6

Locust Grove Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Peach Orchard found:

History of the 55th Illinois, pp. 68-9.

Hamburg-Savannah (River) road found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Michler's Map

Sherman's Map

Farm road found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Michler's Map

Larkin Bell's field and fencing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Burial Records--Shiloh National Cemetery

Fenced field north of Locust Grove Branch found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Michler's Map

Grid H-7

Lick Creek and Locust Grove Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Other watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Hamburg-Savannah (River) road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Sherman's Map

Road to Upper Landing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Michler's Map

Squire McCullers' fenced field, orchard, and cabins found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Michler's Map

Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers reported on crossing Locust Grove Branch, his skirmishes "developed the enemy concealed behind a fence in thick undergrowth, with an open field or orchard [McCullers'] on his front. The width of this orchard was about 350 or 400 yards, and behind it was a very steep and perfectly abrupt hill, at the foot of which ran a small branch. At the base of this hill ran the Hamburg and Pittsburg [Savannah] road, skirting the orchard at its base and then turning to the right running alongside of it, the orchard being to the right of the road." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, Pt. 1, p. 549.

Squire McCullers in 1896 informed Thompson that the field in which Chalmers formed his brigade to attack Stuart on the east side of the Hamburg road, near the Lick Creek crossing, had not changed its configuration since the battle. Moreover, he continued, the house in the orchard stood in April 1862, and there were "three or four cabins at the upper point of the field." Although the cabins appeared on Thom's Map, neither the house or orchard were shown. Thompson to Cadle, May 10, 1896, Thompson's Letter Book, May 27, 1895--Jan. 6, 1897, files SNMP.

Cabin, outbuildings, and fenced lot north of Hamburg-Savannah road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Fenced field north of Locust Grove Branch found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Field east of pond found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Grid H-8

Lick Creek found:

Thompson's Map

Road to Upper Landing found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Grid I-1

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Grid I-2

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Corinth road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

James Wood's cabin, outbuildings, fencing, and field found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Field and fencing south of Wood field found:

Thom's Map

Grid I-3

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Lewis Seay's cabin, outbuildings, fencing, and field found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Fenced field southwest of Seay's field found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Grid I-4

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Eastern Corinth (Ridge) road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Sherman's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Bark road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Grid I-5

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Michler's Map

Bark road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Grid I-6

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Topography found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Bark road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Wallace's Map

Buell's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Cabin and clearing found:

Michler's Map

Grid 1-7

Lick Creek found:

Thompson's Map

Lick Creek ford found:

Col. David Stuart reported, "I kept a company at and in the vicinity of the ford of Lick Creek, on the Hamburg road." Official Records, Ser. I, Vol. X, Pt. 1, p. 257.

Locust Grove Branch found:

Thompson's Map

Hamburg-Savannah (River) road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Sherman's Map

Bark road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Farm road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Fenced field found:

Michler's Map

Thom's Map

Grid J-1

Corinth road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Sherman's Map

Wallace's Map

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Grid J-2

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Corinth road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Sherman's Map
Wallace's Map

Bark road found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Buell's Map
Wallace's Map

Farm road found:

Thom's Map
Buell's Map

Grid J-3

Watercourses found:

Thompson's Map

Woods found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map

Bark road found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Wallace's Map
Buell's Map

Farm roads found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map
Buell's Map

Grid J-4:

Woods found:

Thom's Map
Michler's Map

Bark road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

Farm road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Grid J-5

Woods found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Bark road found:

Thom's Map

Michler's Map

Buell's Map

Wallace's Map

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources

Manuscript Materials:

Atwell Thompson's Letter Books, files Shiloh National Military Park.

Atwell Thompson's Letters, files Shiloh National Military Park.

Cornelius Cadle's Letters, Sent and Received, files Shiloh National Military Park.

Correspondence Shiloh National Military Park, 1895-1911, RG92, Correspondence File--Quartermaster Department, National Archives.

"Record of Burials, Shiloh National Cemetery," files Shiloh National Military Park.

Published:

Public Law No. 9, 28 Statutes 597, Approved December 27, 1894.

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 73 vols., 128 parts, Washington, 1880-1901.

Maps:

"Location and Position of Camp of 11th Illinois Infantry and 15th Iowa line of battle, April 6th, 1862," files Shiloh National Military Park.

"Map of the Battle Field of Shiloh and Gen'l Lew Wallace's Line of March by Geo. W. Harbert, County Surveyor, Hardin County, Tennessee," Library of Congress.

"Map of the battle of Shiloh made by Gen'l W. T. Sherman soon after the fight and found among his letters to his wife in 1905," Library of Congress.

"Map of the Field of Shiloh, near Pittsburgh [sic] Landing, Tenn., showing the positions of the U. S. forces under Maj. Genl. U. S. Grant, U. S. Vol. and Maj. Gen. D. C. Buell, U. S. Vol. on the 6th and 7th of April, 1862. Surveyed under the Direction of Col. Geo. Thom, Chief of Topl. Engrs.," RG77, National Archives.

"Map of the Field of Shiloh, near Pittsburgh [sic] Landing, Tenn., showing the positions of the U. S. forces under Maj.-Gen'l U. S. Grant, U. S. Vol., and Maj.-Gen'l D. C. Buell, U. S. Vol., on the 6th and 7th of April, 1862. Surveyed under the direction of Col. Geo. Thom, Chief of Top'l Eng'rs, Dept. of the Mississippi. Revised and Amended by Gen. D. C. Buell," Library of Congress.

"Map of the Field of Shiloh," used with General Grant's article on Shiloh, as first printed in The Century Magazine, for February 1885, found in Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, edited by Robert Underwood and C. C. Buell, New York, 1884-87, Vol. 1.

"Plan of the field of Shiloh, traced from a map by Col. Geo. Thom, position of divisions in black ink, corrected in green from recollections by Col. Thomas Worthington late of the Army of Tennessee [sic]," Library of Congress.

"Sketch of the Battle Field of Shiloh, showing the disposition of the Troops under the Command of Major General D. C. Buell on the 6th and 7th of April 1862," by N. Michler, Col. Topographical Engineers, RG77, National Archives.

"Topographical Map of the Battlefield of Shiloh," prepared by Atwell Thompson, RG77, National Archives.

"United States Geological Survey--Pittsburg Landing Quadrangle," Series, 1949.

Journals and Reminiscences:

Beauregard, P. G. T., "The Campaign of Shiloh," Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, edited by Robert Underwood and C. C. Buell, New York, 1884-87, Vol. 1.

Bering, John, and Thomas Montgomery, History of the Forty-Eighth Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry, Giving a Complete Account of Regiment . . ., Hillsboro, 1880.

Buell, Don C., "Shiloh Reviewed," Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, edited by Robert Underwood and C. C. Buell, New York, 1884-87, Vol. I.

Cockerill, John A., "A Boy at Shiloh," MOLLUS-Ohio, Cincinnati, 1908, Vol. VI.

Connelly, T. W., History of the Seventieth Ohio Regiment, from its Organization to its Muster Out, Cincinnati, n.d.

Flemming, Robert H., "The Battle of Shiloh as a Private Saw It," Sketches of War History 1861-1865, MOLLUS-Ohio, Cincinnati, 1908, Vol. VI.

Grant, Ulysses S., "The Battle of Shiloh," Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, edited by Robert Underwood and Clarence C. Buell, New York, 1884-87, Vol. I.

Irwin, B. J. D., "Notes on the Introduction of Tent Field Hospitals in War," From the Proceedings of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.

Johnston, William P., "Albert Sidney Johnston at Shiloh," Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, edited by Robert Underwood and C. C. Buell, New York, 1884-87, Vol. I.

Jones, D. Lloyd, "The Battle of Shiloh," MOLLUS-Wisconsin, Vol. IV, Milwaukee, 1914.

The Story of the Fifty-fifth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War, 1861-1865, compiled by Committee, Clinton, Mass., 1887.

Thompson, Seymour D., Recollections with the Third Iowa Regiment, Cincinnati, 1864.

Secondary Sources

Bearss, Edwin C., "Narrative Report for Wayside Exhibits, Shiloh National Military Park, Printing # 1--The Ball Opens in Fraley Field," files Shiloh National Military Park.

Report of the Proceedings of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee at the Fourteenth Annual Meeting Held at Cincinnati, Ohio, April 6 and 7, 1881, Cincinnati, 1881.

Shedd, Charles E., "A History of Shiloh National Military Park," Richmond, 1954.

HISTORICAL BASE MAP

HISTORICAL BASE MAP

SHILOH NATIONAL
MILITARY PARK

APRIL 6 - 7, 1862

CONVENTIONAL SYMBOLS

- MAJOR ROADS
- MINOR ROADS
- RIVERS AND STREAMS
- INTERMITTENT STREAMS
- FORDS
- BRIDGES
- SWAMPS
- SPRINGS
- WOODS
- TOPOGRAPHY
- ORCHARDS
- RAIL FENCES
- FIELDS
- INDIAN MOUNDS
- MILLS
- BUILDING
- CHURCHES

